

Military Collection
State Archives of North Carolina

George W. McIver Papers (WWI 98)
[World War I]

Collection Number: WWI 98

Title: George W. McIver Papers

Dates: 1918-1919, circa 1930, 1933, 1941, undated

Creator: George W. McIver; U.S. Army; and various individuals.

Abstract

The George W. McIver Papers is composed of military records, military operational memos and reports, infantry field returns and casualty lists, military awards and citations lists, personal correspondence, photographs, a book chapter typescript, a research article typescript, news clippings, and miscellaneous materials. These materials document the military service of Brig. Gen. George W. McIver—originally from Carthage, N.C.—who was the commanding officer of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division, U.S. Army during World War I. The most significant set of materials in the collection are operational memos and reports about the 161st Brigade and other infantry units of the 81st Division, which detail the Division's operations before and after Armistice Day in November 1918.

The collection contains a number of unique lists documenting a number of soldiers in the 81st Division. There are lists of casualties from several units of the 81st Division; several of McIver's original field returns; a list of comparative weights for soldiers in Company E, 321st Infantry, from the time they enlisted to 1919; and lists of individuals cited or put forth for military awards from the 161st Brigade and others units in the 81st Division (the personal copies of the lists kept by McIver at commander). The collection has a number of original photographs and real-photo postcards collected by McIver, with detailed descriptions and dates in most cases, from the 161st Brigade's service in France in 1918. The images also document other 81st Division units, and show different French villages in the immediate days following the Armistice on November 11, 1918.

The collection also contains an original typescript for Chapter 15 of McIver's autobiography, entitled "Service with the 81st Division at Camp Jackson," which provides some of the most comprehensive information about the 161st Brigade's time at Camp Jackson, S.C., in 1917 and 1918. Additionally, there is an original program for the Wildcat Veterans National Reunion held in Raleigh, N.C., in October 1941.

Physical Description: 11 folders; 1 oversized folder

Language(s): English, French

Repository

State Archives of North Carolina, 4614 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-4614

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing this collection.

Restrictions on Use: There are no restrictions on the use of this collection.

Preferred Citation

[Item name or title], [Folder Numbers], George W. McIver Papers, WWI 98, WWI Papers, Military Collection, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh, N.C.

Acquisition

The materials in this collection were received from McIver family members in two separate donations. The majority of George W. McIver's military papers and photographs were donated to the State Archives of North Carolina by Helen H. McIver, George W. McIver's wife, of Edgartown, Massachusetts, on July 19, 1947. The original article typescript of "North Carolinians at West Point before the Civil War" by George W. McIver was donated to the State Archives by George W. McIver Jr. of Port Washington, New York, on July 19, 1947.

Separated Material

The slightly-oversized and fragile maps in the collection were stored in a larger oversized folder that does not fit within standard archival storage boxes. It is labeled as "Oversized Folder 1," and was relocated to the Military Collection Oversized Map Case in the Archives Stacks 3B. The folder is labeled with the collection number and title (see Collection Inventory for description of the items stored in this folder).

Related Material

George Willcox McIver Papers (#251), East Carolina Manuscript Collection, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, USA.

Processing Information

The materials in this collection were originally organized in folders based on format or subject content of the items. The collection was reprocessed from its prior arrangement and storage in order to separate the materials in the collection into smaller groups by format, to allow for better long-term preservation of the collection. Military records are arranged by type within folders chronologically based on the documents' dates.

The photograph in the collection has been individually stored in an acid-free, archival plastic sleeves to allow for researchers to handle the original image without causing damage to the

image's surface, and to improve preservation during long-term storage. The photograph has been numbered with a soft HB No. 2 pencil on the back, according to the collection number, the folder number, and an individual image number. For example, the number "WWI 98.F1.1" should be interpreted as "WWI 98 collection, Folder 1, Photograph 1." The identification of this image has been created in the finding aid, but not written on the photograph itself.

Historical research was conducted to provide an accurate description for the photographs, corresponding with the information written on the backs of the photographs. Some of the locations names given on the photographs are not the correct geographic names, while some locales are uncertain due to the multiplicity of similar French village names.

The oversized, fragile maps in the collection have been removed from the collection and stored in an oversized folder and box (see "Separated Material" note for more information). The maps are drawn on resin paper, which has dried and cracked or torn in places on several of the maps. Portions of two of the maps are missing, and some pieces are falling off of a couple of maps at the time of this writing in 2018.

Processed by: Matthew M. Peek, January 2018.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged by format or purpose of the records, then chronologically within folders.

Biographical Note

George Willcox McIver was born on December 22, 1858, in Carthage, N.C., to Alexander (a noted North Carolina educator) and Mary Ann Willcox McIver. George McIver was appointed to West Point Military Academy on July 1, 1877. He remained there to June 13, 1882, when he graduated and was promoted in the U.S. Army to Second Lieutenant with the 7th U.S. Infantry on June 13, 1882.

McIver would serve in the West from 1883 to 1891 at the following locations: on frontier duty at Fort Pembina in the Dakota Territory from September 30 to November 16, 1882; at Fort Bridger, Wyoming, to April 5, 1883; at Fort Fred Steele, Wyoming, to September 5, 1885, along with other troops to put down civil unrest between Chinese and white miners; at Camp Pilot Butte, Wyoming, to July 13, 1887; at Fort Laramie, Wyoming; and at Fort Logan in Denver, Colorado, until August 1891. His unit participated in the "Sioux Campaign" of 1890-1891, which culminated in the Battle of Wounded Knee. McIver was promoted to First Lieutenant of Infantry with the 7th Infantry on November 30, 1889.

McIver was reassigned to the West Point Military Academy in New York on August 28, 1891, in the Department of Tactics. He served as the tactical officer until June 15, 1893, when he was sent to be the duty officer to Camp Pilot Butte, Montana, in 1893. McIver married Helen Smedberg on June 28, 1893. He would then be at Rock Springs, Wyoming, from September 15, 1893, to March 7, 1894. McIver was sent as a Regular Army officer to serve duty with the California National Guard from March 7 to December 1, 1894, where he observed the civil unrest of the

California Railroad Strikes. He was transferred to Fort Logan in Colorado from December 3, 1894, to April 20, 1898, when the regiment left their post for Chickamauga, Georgia.

Assigned as a Captain on April 26, 1898, McIver was reunited with the 7th U.S. Infantry, which was mobilized at Chickamauga Park, Georgia, for service in Cuba during the Spanish-American War, where McIver commanded Company B, 7th U.S. Infantry, in the Battle of El Caney. He would be assigned to Fort Brady, Michigan, on November 24, 1898, remaining there until April 3, 1900. Next, McIver was at Leech Lake Indian Agency in Walker, Minnesota, from April 4 to May 27, 1900. He then was assigned to Fort Davis in Nome, Alaska, from June 28, 1900, to October 6, 1901, where he enforced federal law during the Nome Gold Rush. From 1901 to 1903, he would be at Fort St. Michael, Alaska, or on U.S. Army recruiting duty in Portland, Oregon (it is unclear from conflicting records).

McIver was assigned to the Philippine Islands from 1903 until July 1905, when he returned to California with the 4th U.S. Infantry as the Commandant of the U.S. military prison on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay. McIver's command was responsible for assisting refugees after the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, and commanded the Golden Gate Park District from April 19 to June 1, 1906. He was promoted to Major on March 29, 1904. On November 8, 1907, McIver became the Commandant of the U.S. Army's first musketry school at Monterey, California. He was transferred to the 9th U.S. Infantry on October 13, 1910.

George McIver was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on March 11, 1911. In 1911, McIver served as President for the board for revision of the Army *Small Arms Firing Manual* from July 1 to December 31, 1911. He served a second tour of duty in the Philippines in 1914, and was promoted to the rank of Colonel on March 13, 1914. McIver became assistant to the Chief of Militia Bureau of the U.S. War Department on February 4, 1915.

George McIver was promoted to Brigadier General with the U.S. Army on August 5, 1917. He then took command of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division, which trained at Camp Jackson and Camp Sevier, South Carolina. This unit became incorporated into the American Expeditionary Force when the division was shipped overseas to France during World War I. McIver served overseas from August 12, 1918, to June 7, 1919, during the war. The 161st Brigade served first in the St. Dié Sector in the Vosges department of France, later moving into the Sommedieue Sector near Verdun in 1918. On November 9, 10, and 11, the 81st Division joined in the Argonne-Meuse Offensive. McIver and his unit returned to the United States at Charleston, S. C., on June 18, 1919.

From 1919 until his retirement in 1922, McIver was stationed at Camp Pike, Arkansas, and Camp Slocum, New York. At Camp Pike, he was in charge of the Demobilization Group from July 4 to August 27, 1919. McIver was returned to the rank of Colonel on August 31, 1919, before being transferred to Camp Slocum on September 1, 1919. There, McIver commanded an Army recruit depot.

After retiring in 1922, McIver would begin writing extensively. This included the paper published as "North Carolinians at West Point before the Civil War" in the *North Carolina Historical Review* in 1930. Around 1930, he compiled a multi-volume work entitled

Autobiography of George Willcox McIver, which he revised in 1940. In his post-WWI life, George McIver came to live in Washington, D.C.

George W. McIver died on May 12, 1947, and was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. He is buried in Section 6, Site 5680-A.

[Information for this biography was taken from the following sources: finding aid for George Willcox McIver Papers (#251), East Carolina Manuscript Collection, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, USA; *Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the United States Military Academy* (5 Vols.) by George W. Cullum, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1891].

Scope and Content

The collection is composed of military records, military operational memos and reports, infantry field returns and casualty lists, military awards and citations lists, personal correspondence, photographs, a book chapter typescript, a research article typescript, news clippings, and miscellaneous materials. These materials document the military service of Brig. Gen. George W. McIver—originally from Carthage, N.C.—who was the commanding officer of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division, U.S. Army during World War I. The most significant set of materials in the collection are operational memos and reports about the 161st Brigade and other infantry units of the 81st Division, which detail the Division's operations before and after Armistice Day in November 1918.

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Subject Terms

Persons/Families

McIver, George Willcox, 1858-1947

Corporate Names

United States Military Academy

United States. Militia Bureau

United States. Army--Military life

United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces

Places

Carthage (N.C.)

Meuse (France)

Vosges Mountains (France)

Subject—Topical

United States. Army. Infantry Division, 81st

World War, 1914-1918--North Carolina

World War, 1914-1918--United States

Material Types

Clippings

Military records

Photographic postcards

Photographs

Collection Inventory

Folder	Description	Date
1	Wartime Photographs	October-November 1918

WWI 98.F1.1: View of members of Company B, 321st Infantry, 81st Division, U.S. Army, setting up stoves in the Les Rouges-Eaux Valley (in the Vosges department of northeastern France) just before going into the trenches for the first time for combat in World War I on September 16, 1918. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division (September 16, 1918) [Photograph originally numbered “1”].

WWI 98.F1.2: View of two members of Company B, 321st Infantry, 81st Division, U.S. Army, standing with pack donkeys carrying water from a spring to the military rolling kitchen on the front lines. The men were in Prancieux in the battalion sector of C. R. Palon, in the Ban-de-Sapt commune (in the Vosges department of northeastern France) on September 29, 1918. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division, during World War I (September 29, 1918) [Photograph originally numbered “2”].

WWI 98.F1.3: View of several members of Company B, 321st Infantry, 81st Division, U.S. Army, standing with pack donkeys carrying water from a spring to the military rolling kitchen on the front lines. The men were in Prancieux in the battalion sector of sector C. R. Palon, in the Ban-de-Sapt commune (in the Vosges department of northeastern France) on September 29, 1918. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division, during World War I (September 29, 1918) [Photograph originally numbered “3”].

WWI 98.F1.4: Group photograph of members of Company B, 321st Infantry, 81st Division, U.S. Army, posing around French farm buildings in the Hurbache commune, on a reserve military line of sector C. R. Palon (in the Vosges department of northeastern France) on October 10, 1918. Photograph taken after Company B’s first hour stationed on the front lines in France during World War I. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division (October 10, 1918) [Photograph originally numbered “4”].

WWI 98.F1.5: Group photograph of officers (kneeling) and sergeants (standing) of Company B, 321st Infantry, 81st Division, U.S. Army, posing with French farm buildings in the background in the Hurbache commune, on a reserve military line of sector C. R. Palon (in the Vosges department of northeastern France) on October 10, 1918. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division, during World War I (October 10, 1918) [Photograph originally numbered “5”].

WWI 98.F1.6: View of members of the 81st Division, U.S. Army, in the commune of Dompierre (in the Vosges department of northeastern France), showing the road leading to the headquarters of the 161st Brigade in the commune of Pataux [?] in France on October 25, 1918, during World War I. Pictured are a rolling kitchen with steam rising from it at right, and the village church in the background. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division (October 25, 1918) [Photograph originally numbered “8”].

WWI 98.F1.7: Group photograph of members of Company B, 321st Infantry, 81st Division, U.S. Army, standing outside at Moulainville, a commune in the Meuse department in eastern France, a few days after the armistice for World War I on November 13, 1918. From this point, the 1st Battalion, 321st Infantry, 81st Division, went to relieve the 3rd Battalion, 322nd Infantry, 81st Division, on November 10, 1918. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division (November 13, 1918) [Photograph originally numbered “11”].

WWI 98.F1.8: Group photograph of members of Company B, 321st Infantry, 81st Division, U.S. Army, standing outside next to a German dug-out (at left) captured by the 322nd Infantry, 81st Division, at Moulainville, a commune in the Meuse department in eastern France, on November 12, 1918. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division (November 12, 1918) [Photograph originally numbered “12”].

WWI 98.F1.9: Group photograph of automatic rifle teams from Company B, 321st Infantry, 81st Division, U.S. Army, standing outside while bivouacking at Moulainville, a commune in the Meuse department in eastern France, on November 12, 1918. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division during

World War I (November 12, 1918) [Photograph originally numbered “13”].

WWI 98.F1.10: View of a line of the surviving military scouts from Company B, 321st Infantry, 81st Division, U.S. Army, standing outside at Moulainville, a commune in the Meuse department in eastern France, on November 12, 1918. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division during World War I (November 12, 1918) [Photograph originally numbered “14”].

WWI 98.F1.11: View of members of Company B, 321st Infantry, 81st Division, U.S. Army, walking the ground between the commune of Moulainville and the Verdun-Metz Road in the Meuse department in eastern France, on November 12, 1918. The men are pictured salvaging underwear and socks they had thrown away the day before on the Armistice Day. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division during World War I (November 12, 1918) [Photograph originally numbered “15”].

WWI 98.F1.12: Distant view of the war-damaged remains of the Abaucourt-Hautecourt commune in the Meuse department in eastern France, on November 12, 1918. Company B, 321st Infantry, 81st Division, U.S. Army, had reached this location at the point of the Armistice during World War I. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division (November 12, 1918) [Photograph originally numbered “16”].

WWI 98.F1.13: View of a pile of German weapons and materials captured by Company B, 321st Infantry, 81st Division, U.S. Army, in November 1918. Photograph taken on November 12, 1918. Pictured are a machine gun; 10,000 rounds of ammunition; packs; helmets; flares; grenades; rifles; bread; and other items. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division, during World War I (November 12, 1918) [Photograph originally numbered “17”].

WWI 98.F1.14: View of a row of 354 anti-tank mines in the line of the advance of Company B, 321st Infantry, 81st Division, U.S. Army, on the front line between the French communes of Moranville and Abaucourt-Hautecourt. Picture taken on November 12, 1918. Photograph collected by

Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division, during World War I (November 12, 1918) [Photograph originally numbered "18"].

WWI 98.F1.15: Photograph of Chaplain B. S. Vaughn of the 1st Battalion, 321st Infantry, 81st Division, U.S. Army, presiding over the mass burial of the dead at the commune of Moranville, in the Meuse department in eastern France, on November 12, 1918. The graves are seen marked by little white slabs of wood. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division, during World War I (November 12, 1918) [Photograph originally numbered "19"].

2

Wartime Photographs

circa 1918, 1919,
undated

WWI 98.F2.1: Photograph of Brig. Gen. George W. McIver (left), commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division, and Capt. R. L. Whitelegg (?), standing outside of a stone building in Châtillon, France, during World War I (circa 1918).

WWI 98.F2.2: View of the entrance to the underground quarters of Brig. Gen. George W. McIver, commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division, in Châtillon, France, during World War I (circa 1918).

WWI 98.F2.3: View looking down the road at the shell-damaged ruins of the commune of Étain, in the Meuse department in northeastern France, during World War I. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division (circa 1918).

WWI 98.F2.4: View of the ruins of a shell-damaged church in Châtillon, France, during World War I. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division (circa 1918).

WWI 98.F2.5: View of the German defenses at the commune of Warcq in the Ardennes département in northern France during World War I. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division (circa 1918).

WWI 98.F2.6: Photograph of a group of unidentified military members in uniform in Europe during World War I [believed to be French and American soldiers]. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division (undated).

WWI 98.F2.7: French real-photo postcard of officers of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division, U.S. Army, posing outside of the unit's mess center in France during World War I. Brig. Gen. George W. McIver (third from left), commander of the 161st Brigade, is pictured (circa 1918).

WWI 98.F2.8: French real-photo postcard of a contact print of a photograph of members of the 81st Division, U.S. Army, marching in formation during a review before the king and queen of Belgium, Albert I and Elisabeth of Bavaria. The king and queen are on a reviewing stand in the center of the image, covered in flags, as the 81st Division members pass by (undated) [it is believed that U.S. General John J. Pershing was present].

WWI 98.F2.9: French real-photo postcard of a contact print of a photograph of members of the 81st Division, U.S. Army, marching in formation during a review before the king and queen of Belgium, Albert I and Elisabeth of Bavaria (undated) [it is believed that U.S. General John J. Pershing was present].

WWI 98.F2.10: Photograph of rows of graves for members of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division, U.S. Army, in Châtillon, France, during World War I. Wooden crosses are used as grave markers. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division (undated).

WWI 98.F2.11: View of ruined buildings from shell and bomb damage in Châtillon, France, during World War I. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division (undated).

WWI 98.F2.12: French real-photo postcard of a street scene in the commune of Laignes, in the Côte-d'Or department, in eastern France during World War I. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division (undated).

WWI 98.F2.13: French real-photo postcard of a contact print of a photograph of a street scene in the commune of Laignes, in the Côte-d’Or department, in eastern France during World War I. A man is seen driving a horse-drawn cart down the street. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division (undated).

WWI 98.F2.14: Snapshot of an official review of the 81st Division on March 20, 1919, in the commune of Châtillon-sur-Seine in the Côte-d’Or department in eastern France. Photograph collected by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while commander of the 161st Brigade, 81st Division (March 20, 1919).

WWI 98.F2.15: Snapshot of an unidentified marker [believed to be for the 81st Division] dedicated at Camp Jackson, S.C., along a road (undated).

3	Personal Correspondence	1918
4	Military Orders, Memos, and Records	1918-1919
5	Military Operational Memos and Reports	October-November 1918, undated
6	161st Brigade and 321st Infantry Field Returns and Casualty Lists	1918-1919
7	321st Infantry Military Awards and Citations Lists	November 1918, April 1919
8	Wildcat Veterans National Reunion Materials	October 1941
9	“Service with the 81st Division at Camp Jackson” Chapter Typescript [Chapter 15]	Undated
10	“North Carolinians at West Point before the Civil War” Article Typescript	circa 1930
11	Miscellaneous Materials	1933, undated

Oversized Folder 1 McIver's WWI Moranville, France Maps

circa 1918

Four original maps of varying sizes, showing the different lines and locations for units of the 81st Division, U.S. Army, around the commune of Moranville, France, around 1918. Three of the maps contain hand-drawn editions and notes in red pen ink. The maps were used on the battlefield by Brig. Gen. George W. McIver while he commanded the 161st Brigade in World War I.